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BOOK REVIEWS.

All book reviews are by the Editor-in-Chief unless otherwise expressly stated.

American and English Annotated Cases, containing the Important Cases Selected from the Current American, Canadian, and English Reports. Thoroughly Annotated. Editors, William M. McKinney and H. Noyes Greene. Volume XXXVIII Ann. Cas. 1915D. Edward Thompson Company, Northport, L. I., N. Y. Bancroft-Whitney Company, San Francisco. 1915. Price \$5.00.

Volume XXXVIII is in no way behind its predecessors. We have examined with much interest the note on page 434, "When Equitable Conversion Takes Place under Will Directing Sale of Land at Future Time." Also "What Amounts to Coercion of Jury by Court into Agreeing on a Verdict." The note on page 865, "Admissibility of Parole Evidence to Vary or Explain Covenant in Deed against Encumbrances," is also of interest. The note on page 942 as to "Effect of Ordinance of 1787 on States Carved out of Northwest Territory," is of historical and legal value and quite full. The note on "Contempt Procedure in Federal Court," is also one which we think will be of interest to the profession generally. The note on page 1261 on "Construction of Constitutional or Statutory Provision Giving Power to Determine Law and Facts in Action for Libel or Slander" is quite full and of much novelty.

We seldom examine one of these volumes as they come out without being struck with the wisdom shown in the selection of cases and in the admirable way in which they are annotated.

Wm. Branch Giles: A Study in the Politics of Virginia and the Nation from 1790 to 1830, by Dice Robin Anderson, B. A., M. A., Ph. D., Professor and Head of the Department of History and Political Science. Richmond College, Richmond, Va. The Collegiate Press: Geo. Banta, Publishing Co.: Menasha, Wis.: 1914. Price \$1.50.

No state ever had a nobler history than Virginia: No state ever neglected its history more. It is therefore a source of profound pleasure to lovers of the Commonwealth to find that at last earnest men are beginning to work out of the mass of material, gems of ore which will in the end make a diadem for the brow of the old mother. This life of Governor Giles is a valuable contribution to Virginia history. It not only rescues from what bade fair to be oblivion the memory of a great man; but is an interesting and well written description of the political history of the state during the period named. Giles was a figure which loomed large in his time. Congressman, Senator, Governor he was a prominent man in the councils of the Nation, fearless, eloquent, a states rights man of

the most extreme type and therefore much disliked by the Federalists and men of mere moderate views. That very biased and untrustworthy—so called historian Senator Henry Cabot Lodge spoke of him as “an old ruffian.” He was just about as much a ruffian as Senator Lodge is a truthful historian, as Dr. Anderson’s work clearly demonstrates. He never hesitated to speak out plainly; he was a hard hitter, but this son of old Amelia in Virginia was as well bred a gentleman as any Massachusetts ever produced in all her history, and a far abler Statesman than she has ever produced since the days of the Adams. We do not count Webster as a Massachusetts man following the Senator’s method of placing talent, as per his Century article on distribution of talent between North and South. We commend Dr. Anderson’s book to the reading public, as able, impartial and well written. Every Virginian should have it in his library, and every man who wants the facts of American political history should own it. We hope it is but the beginning of Dr. Anderson’s contributions to Virginia history.

Jones’ Blackstone—By William Carey Jones, Director of the Law School of Jurisprudence, University of California. Bancroft-Whitney Company, San Francisco, Publishers. 1915. Published in two Editions: Students’ Edition, Buckram Binding, 2 volumes, Price \$9.00; De Luxe Edition, Oxford Bible Paper, Flexible Black Morocco Binding, 2 volumes, Price \$15.00.

The famous commentaries on the laws of England, by Sir William Blackstone, Kt, should be the foundation of every course of legal study. There is no part of the law that is not dealt with by Blackstone, nor is there a subject mentioned by him that a successful lawyer need not know, and will not regret it if he does not know. As has been said, Blackstone anticipated almost every topic to which the attention of scientific jurists and writers has since been led. Turning then to this new, up-to-date, and much needed edition, we would mention the following merits: The text, complete and attractively printed; the notes, showing modifications of the common law; the extracts from writings of acknowledged authorities on many branches of the law; the statutes, mentioned in text and notes giving titles and dates; the division into sections, enabling ready reference; the full outline and exhaustive table of contents and index; and the translation of all Latin and foreign terms, phrases and maxims. These and many other features distinguish this valuable edition from all others. In conclusion, let us say that it is a storehouse of legal knowledge for the student, and one to which the successful lawyer may recur to make up in mature life, imperfectly though it may be, the omissions of his early training.

By R. C. WALKER,
Associate Editor.